III. REMARKS

Claims 2 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Alden. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 2 recites that the bayonet ring is rotatably mounted about the counterplug housing, that the spring tongue on the bayonet ring has án inward pointing peg and that the circumference of the plug housing has at least one sliding channel able to receive the peg (of the spring tongue). Alden does no anticipate the features recited in claim 2.

In Fig. 1, Alden discloses connector system 10 comprising male connector 12 and female receptacle connector 14. The male connector 12 has a cylindrical housing 16 and cylindrical collar 36. The collar 36 has alternating flexible rotational rib members 44 and axial retention rib members 48 (see col. 4, lines 1-10). Each rotational rib 44 has a cam follower 46. Each retention rib 48 has a retention boss 50. The housing 16 of the male connector 12 has retention recesses 34, and cam recesses 22. When the male connector 12 is assembled by mating the collar 36 with the connector housing 16, the boss 50 on the retention ribs 48 of the collar 36 engage the retention recesses 34 in the male connector housing (see also Figs. 2A-2B). The retention bosses 50, when engaged into the retention recesses 34 of the housing 16, serve to fasten the collar 36 to housing 16 of connector 12 and to restrain the collar 36 from axial motion with respect to the male connector 12 (col. 4, lines 36-39). Thus, clearly the retention ribs 48 and retention bosses 50 serve to fasten or mount the collar 36 to the housing 16 of connector 12. Hence, the collar 36 in Alden is mounted on the housing 16 of connector 12. As also seen in Fig. 1, the collar 36 has a median portion

38 (from the end of which the rotation and retention ribs 44, 48 project). It is the median portion 38 that has engagement bosses 56 for engaging the housing of the receptacle connector 14. As seen in Fig. 1, the engagement bosses 56 are not on retention or rotation ribs 48, 44 or ribs (i.e. spring tongues) of any kind. Median portion 38 with engagement bosses 56 is a solid ring. It is engagement bosses 56 on the solid ring portion 38 of collar 36 that are received by grooves 68 in the housing of connector 14. Thus, in Alden, the collar 36 is mounted on the housing of connector 12, and the housing of connector 14 (i.e. the connector which is engaged by the collar but to which the collar is not mounted) has grooves 68 to receive bosses 56 on the solid ring portion of the collar (not bosses 46, 50 on the rotation/retention ribs of the collar). This is different than what is recited in claim 2. Claim 2 recites that the plug housing (i.e. the housing which is engaged by the bayonet ring but on which the bayonet ring is not mounted; claim 1 recites that the bayonet ring is mounted around the counterplug housing) has a sliding channel able to receive the inward pointing peg of the spring tongue of the bayonet ring. In Alden, on the other hand, the grooves 68 in connector 14 are simply not able to receive any of the bosses 46, 50 on the ribs 44, 48 of the collar 36. Claim 2 is patentable over the cited prior art and should be allowed.

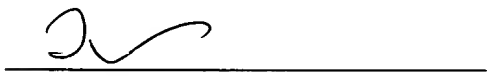
Claim 9 calls for a counterplug, a bayonet ring that is rotatably mounted about the counterplug housing, a collar located around the counterplug, and that after complete insertion of the bayonet ring, the collar rests on spring tongues of the bayonet ring. The features of claim 9 are not anticipated by Alden. Alden fails to disclose both a connector about which the collar 36

(i.e. the bayonet ring) is rotatably mounted and a collar around the connector. Alden merely discloses connector 16 and collar 36 to which the collar 36 is mounted. The "collar" (between 23 and 34 in Fig. 1) to which the Examiner points, is the connector itself. The connector in Alden does not comprise a counterplug, a bayonet ring and a collar (around the counterplug) as called for in claim 9. Clearly, in Alden there is no collar, around the counterplug, that rests on the spring tongues of the bayonet ring when the bayonet ring is completely inserted as otherwise called for in claim 9. Claim 9 is patentable over the cited prior art and should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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Janik Marcovici
Reg. No. 42,841

Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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